

Amendments to the Claims:

1-27 (canceled)

28. (previously presented) An image segmentation method, said method comprising:
- a) obtaining pixel attribute data for a mixed-content image, said pixel attribute data comprising at least one of a luminance data, a chrominance data and a hue data;
 - b) downsampling said pixel data;
 - c) filtering said pixel data to remove noise;
 - d) computing a local discriminating feature, selected from the group consisting of standard deviation and spread, to identify a text region in said image, wherein a region is identified as text when said feature is above a local feature threshold value;
 - e) analyzing a luminance histogram of said image to identify a background region in said image, wherein a region is identified as background when an initial maximum histogram bin containing the highest number of pixels exceeds a background threshold value;
 - f) verifying said background region analysis using region chrominance data;
 - g) labeling any background regions as such;
 - h) analyzing areas in said image outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone regions;
 - i) verifying said contone regions using region properties, wherein said contone regions are eliminated when a contone region's area is smaller than the square of one tenth of the page width;
 - j) analyzing said contone regions to identify text regions present within said contone regions;
 - k) analyzing said contone regions to identify background regions present in said contone regions;
 - l) analyzing areas in said contone regions outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone sub-regions;
 - m) repeating steps e-g until no further sub-regions are found; and
 - n) analyzing said contone regions and said contone sub-regions to identify pictorial contone regions and non-pictorial contone regions.

29. (canceled)
30. (new) An image segmentation method, said method comprising:
- a) obtaining pixel attribute data for a mixed-content image;
 - b) identifying a text region in said image;
 - i) identifying a background region in said image;
 - ii) analyzing areas in said image outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone regions;
 - c) analyzing said contone regions to identify any text regions present within said contone regions;
 - d) analyzing said contone regions to identify any background regions present in said contone regions;
 - e) analyzing areas in said contone regions outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone sub-regions;
 - f) repeating steps e-g until no further sub-regions are found; and
 - g) removing contone regions whose area is smaller than the square of one tenth of the page width.